

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication apparatus comprising:
packet transmitting means for transmitting image data
in packets and for selectively transmitting sound data in
packets;
detecting means for detecting an amount of sound data
to be transmitted in packets; and
control means for controlling a variable packet size of
the image data to be transmitted in packets by said packet
transmitting means, according to a result of detection
performed by said detecting means.
2. A communication apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein said control means changes the packet size of the
image data gradationally according to the amount of the
sound data to be transmitted in packets.
3. A communication apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein said control means changes the packet size of the
image data according to whether the amount of the sound data
to be transmitted in packets is zero or non-zero.
4. A communication apparatus according to Claim 1,
further comprising image input means for inputting the image

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data by photographing an image.

5. A communication apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said image input means includes one of a motion-picture camera and a still-picture camera.

6. A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising sound input means for inputting the sound data.

7. A communication apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said sound input means includes a microphone.

8. A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising compressing means for compressing at least one of the image data and the sound data.

9. A communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising receiving means for receiving image data and sound data transferred in packets and playing means for playing the image data and the sound data received by said receiving means.

10. A communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said playing means includes expanding means for

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expanding image data and sound data.

11. A communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said playing means includes a display which makes image data visible.

12. A communication apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said playing means includes a speaker for outputting sound data.

13. A communication method comprising:

a packet transmitting step for transmitting image data in packets and for selectively transmitting sound data in packets;

a detecting step for detecting an amount of sound data to be transmitted in packets; and

a control step for switching the packet size of the image data to be transmitted in packets in said packet transmitting step, according to a result of detection in said detecting step.

? 14. A recording medium storing, in a readable state for a computer, a program for having a communication apparatus implement steps comprising:

a packet transmitting step for transmitting image data

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in packets and for selectively transmitting sound data in packets;

a detecting step for detecting an amount of sound data to be transmitted in packets; and

a control step for controlling a variable packet size of the image data to be transmitted in packets in said packet transmitting step, according to a result of detection in said detecting step.

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